

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

It is noted with appreciation that claims 5, 6, 8, 12, 17, 18, 20, 24-26 and 28 were objected to but indicated to be allowable if rewritten to incorporate the limitations of rejected base claims and intervening claims. This is held in abeyance at this time.

Claims 1-4, 7, 9-11, 13-16, 19, 21-23 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 in view of U.S. Patent 6,461,082 to Smith.

Claim 1 features, *inter alia*, a composite sacrificial anode comprising a plurality of castings of a sacrificial material each disposed around a corresponding electrical connector, a part of the surface of each casting being protected from corrosion by the environment by being adjacent to at least one other casting. These features are not disclosed by Smith.

Smith discloses sacrificial anodes spaced apart from each other along a conducting pipe. Smith fails to disclose an anode comprised of a plurality of castings, as claimed (see Fig. 2) but rather discloses separate spaced anodes. Moreover, even if one would compare Smith despite its failure to disclose an anode comprised of a plurality of castings or segments, Smith's anodes are spaced so far apart that a part of the surface of each anode is not protected from corrosion by being adjacent to at least one other casting, as claimed. For these reasons, Smith does not disclose the features of claim 1.

Claims 2-4, 7, and 9-11, which depend from claim 1 and thus incorporate all of its features, are patentable in view of Smith for at least the same reasons as claim 1 and further in view of the additional features presented in these dependent claims.

Claim 13 features, *inter alia*, a method of producing a composite sacrificial anode, which method comprises casting a plurality of segments of a sacrificial material each in contact with a corresponding electrical connector, each connector being at least

partly within its corresponding individual segment, assembling the segments together to form a composite anode such that a part of the surface of each segment is protected from corrosion by being adjacent to at least one other segment. These features are not disclosed by Smith.

As discussed, Smith does not disclose an anode that is comprised of a plurality of segments as in claim 13 but instead discloses separate anodes spaced along the metal pipe conductor. Smith also fails to disclose assembling segments together as claimed to form a composite anode. Further, even if one would compare Smith despite its failure to disclose an anode comprised of a plurality of segments, Smith's anodes are spaced so far apart that a part of the surface of each anode is not protected from corrosion by being adjacent to at least one other segment, as claimed. For these reasons, Smith does not disclose the features of claim 13.

Claims 14-16, 19, 21-23 and 27, which depend from claim 13 and thus incorporate all of its features, are patentable in view of Smith for at least the same reasons as claim 13 and further in view of the additional features presented in these dependent claims.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 38259.

Respectfully submitted,

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